

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: JOSEF MENGELE

1. Don Ferrarone, U.S. Marshals Service, called on the secure phone at 1500, 9 April. He said that his team had returned from Germany and that the Germans were working on answering some of the questions contained in the memo that had been passed to us. Ferrarone said he hoped to get together to discuss the details, and on that basis, I think it best to see what comes out of our cable to Bonn and Frankfurt, as well as what the Germans come up with.

2. Ferrarone then said they had just interviewed an informant whose name is Herbert John, a former journalist in his early 60's, an ethnic German who had lived in Latin America for a number of years. John is now resident in New York City. John claimed to have information about Mengele's whereabouts which he had been trying to peddle to news organizations and the Israelis. The Israelis apparently said the info was no good, but took copies of the photo John had, plus info about the alleged location of Mengele, which was in Uruguay, on a ranch in the vicinity of Punta del Este, about 80 miles from Montevideo. Ferrarone claimed that, having told John they disbelieved his information, the Israelis then had sent a team to Uruguay to get Mengele. The Israelis (Mossad) also said they were short of money.

3. Ferrarone said his people had had an anthropologist examine the photo, alleged to be a month old, which John had. The anthropologist opined that he was 99% sure the person in the photo was Mengele. There supposedly is an I.D. card with a fingerprint on it which the Marshals Service hopes to check out also. John apparently has a sub-source in Uruguay (NFI) from whom the Marshals hope to get further information. Ferrarone, however, was off to the Dominican Republic and Haiti on other business, and will be gone for the rest of the week.

4. I suspect this will be another wild good chase, or that if the lead is real, Mossad will get there first. With regard to Mossad, Ferrarone asked if we could elicit from the Israelis if they had sent a team to Uruguay. I made no commitment; I merely reiterated that we had sent a cable to Tel Aviv asking for the latest info. Ferrarone had, after all, asked that we keep all the above "in house."

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